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12 March 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chiefs, FBIS Field Bureaus

FROM: Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction

GENERAL

1. A special report on broadcasting in Moslem languages in Central Asia was prepared for SR/P as background for a broadcast expansion project. The paper, which was largely compiled by the BIS but included an RPB contribution, was warmly received by SR.

[redacted]

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2. Following the DD/I's favorable decision regarding the future of the Hokkaido Bureau, a request was initiated for the addition of a foreign national cruising monitor to the Bureau staff to regularize the Bureau's cruising responsibilities and to supplement the information available to the OCR Radio Stations Register. A memorandum was also forwarded to the Bureau Chief requesting a survey of certain Chinese regional potential.

[redacted]

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3. Owing to serious deterioration in the intercept of Kyrenia communications at [redacted] an omen of the impending maximum phase of the sun spot cycle, coordinating checks with London Bureau have been suspended indefinitely. Virtually no Kyrenia material is now being received directly [redacted] [redacted]

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4. [redacted] West Coast Bureau engineer detailed to the experimental cruising operation at Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico, arrived at San Juan on 19 February and began work at the Navy Receiving Station the following day. He reports the station is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a swamp and that the Navy has been very cooperative. Mail and wire communications (clear text) have been established, and a supplementary receiver is ready for shipment as soon as the shipping address is received.

[redacted]

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5. A traffic check on Okinawa's communications during the month showed a significant improvement over typical service of the past year. An analysis of approximately 160 messages passed during a 24-hour period revealed that the average time was approximately three hours. The fastest routine message arrived in 45 minutes and the fastest priority in 19 minutes; the slowest message required nine hours and 29 minutes.

[redacted]

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6. A Navy radiogram based on monitoring of Peking NCNA attributed to the New York Times Monitoring Service was investigated through the Liaison Officer, who determined that the New York Times does not actually operate a monitoring service. It is understood that the Times' Far East correspondent received the material from the Reuters Tokyo correspondent, who probably bought it from Radio Press. The apparent "scooping" of FBIS in this dispatch appeared to result from erroneous conversion of dates and times. [redacted]

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7. The German Bureau doubled its recordings for BEC of broadcasts from Radio Homeland, the Russian Quasi-Clandestine transmitter in East Germany targeted on Soviet expatriates in West Germany. This keeps pace with the expansion of the station's output from one to two hours daily. [redacted]

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8. A thorough survey of the possibility of consolidating the German and Austrian Bureaus in Munich, a proposal which held particular advantages for the analytic press scrutiny operation being initiated at the Bureaus, has concluded that administrative and technical obstacles to the consolidation far outweigh any benefits it might bring. The original plan to locate Soviet and Satellite scrutiny in Vienna, with Frankfurt handling East German material, remains in force, at least for the time being. [redacted]

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9. A card index by subject of the speeches at the CPSU Party Congress, prepared by the Radio Propaganda Branch to facilitate research on the policy positions of individual Soviet leaders, was reproduced and made available to OCT, OIR, USIA and through the Air Force to Rand Corporation. [redacted]

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10. The special wire service to Ambassador Johnson in Geneva continued throughout February. Wordage for the month averaged just over 1,000 per day. [redacted]

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11. At the request of the DD/I, FBIS reproduced in Daily Report Supplement form, Moscow's entire coverage of the 20th Party Congress. The compilation, which filled 700 pages and was reproduced in 1,200 copies, included all speeches, major and minor, details of the proceedings, and collateral Soviet comment. It now seems likely that a second edition will be required to fill the many requests received. [redacted]

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12. During February the Daily Report carried, from NCNA and Peking Mandarin, some 98,550 words on the proceedings at the plenary sessions of the Second National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which met in Peking during the first part of the month. This included texts of the policy statement by Premier Chou En-lai and speeches by high-ranking officials of the government and the people's organizations included in the democratic front. [redacted]

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13. At the end of February the penultimate phase of housing construction at the Okinawa Bureau was 99 per cent complete. All buildings have undergone final inspection. Exterior utilities are 95 per cent complete. [redacted]

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14. The final phase of housing construction at the Okinawa Bureau envisages seven 3-bedroom single family dwellings. The project has been approved and a contract will be let in the near future. [redacted]

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15. A project of about \$70,000 for the construction of four 2-family duplex units for the Hokkaido Bureau at Chitose Air Force Base was submitted to the PRC. [redacted]

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16. The FBIS move to 1717 H Street, N. W. was completed as scheduled. Minor alterations are to be made when workmen are available. Our new offices are centrally located and after five years of being away from downtown it is pleasant to have all the facilities and services of a city readily at hand once again. We miss the Netherlands' carillon, the rose garden, the river, and the cherry blossoms. [redacted]

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17. Extensive communication outages on the land lines between Okinawa Bureau and Rycom Signal relay caused disruption via this carrier of telephone service for eighteen days and teletype service for six days. Throughout the outages the VHF radio backup circuit performed excellently and provided communication of both telephone and teletype without perceptible interruption. [redacted]

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18. Careful studies of Peking to Taiwan broadcast-content conducted at the Okinawa Bureau have indicated that one Mandarin transmission fully repeats all items in the other two Mandarin and three Amoy broadcasts and that a change in the emphasis given any subject in this transmission accurately reflects the change in treatment in the other five transmissions. Thus the single Mandarin series can be selected for monitoring as completely representative with only occasional checking of the other transmissions to assure that the broadcast pattern is unchanged. By this technical study Okinawa has managed to cut monitoring of Peking to Taiwan broadcasts by almost two-thirds. Other bureaus may wish to carry out similar reviews of Orbit transmissions. [redacted]

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19. JANAP 117 (B), the Joint Routing Indicator Book, was implemented effective 1 March 1956 and supersedes JANAP 117 (A). It is assumed that all Bureaus have received copies from their local sources; if not and local sources cannot supply, the Field Operations Staff will attempt to

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obtain for any Bureau in need of a copy. With a few minor exceptions FBIS was unaffected by changes, but it is possible that some customer routing indicators were affected. In order to avert the necessity of checking the full publication or addresses on the full incoming file here, it will be appreciated if the field will advise of any effective changes in customer routing indicators. [redacted]

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20. The recently adopted ICAO phonetic alphabet (alpha, bravo, etc.) is to be employed in cryptographic messages by bureaus handling such traffic whenever it is necessary to phoneticize letters of the alphabet. [redacted]

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EDITORIAL COMMENT [redacted]

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1. All Bureaus

a. The Chief, Mediterranean Bureau, notes that Sub para 3 of Para b on Page 4 of the Letter of Instruction dated 17 October 1955 is at variance with parts of the Field Manual and Style Manual. This observation is quite correct. The policy set forth in the Letter of Instruction subparagraph referred to applies only to texts of a documentary nature in which original English phraseology is material. In such cases, of course, the original wording must be preserved. In other cases, however, the manner of handling Briticisms or any other turns of phrase foreign or incorrect should continue to be that generally prevailing in Bureau practice. As is usual, what an editor does in each specific instance will be determined by his own judgment of the entire situation in which that particular instance arises.

b. While Headquarters welcomes editors' notes as background amplification in texts, field personnel must guard against use of notes which are factually incorrect or provocative in phraseology. FBIS-authored notes must avoid all terms which suggest name-calling, partisanship, or opprobrium. A recent editorial note from the field, referring to the Chinese Nationalists as the Chiang Kai-shek "clique," is an example of treatment to be avoided. Field editors are reminded that responsibility for facts and phraseology is theirs whether the notes happened to be prepared by themselves or by monitors.

2. West Coast Bureau

More extensive briefing of Latin American items would be appreciated. Daily Report space limitations make it mandatory that a great many items be briefed for publication.

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3. Tokyo Bureau

Excessive cutting of South Korean commentaries in the preparation of summaries appears to be the reason for loss in unity and coherence. Possibly a better effect would be achieved by "sweating down" paragraphs, sentences, and clauses when the problem is purely reduction of length. When solid blocks of text are missing because of bad reception, excerpts ordinarily would be preferable to summary.

4. Okinawa Bureau

Numerical Code namelists have been causing an increasing amount of difficulty and delay in publication because of transmission garbles. To reduce the margin of error it is proposed that all such namelists be wirefiled twice, the second time after hard copy has been carefully checked and the tape corrected. This procedure would take care of both correction and confirmation. It also would be much simpler than confirming the numbers in words, an obvious alternative.

PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT

1. The detailed Soviet commentary lists filed by all major bureaus during the XX Party Congress period offer an opportunity and provide a basis for a number of valuable studies, as for example of the power position of Soviet leaders as reflected by broadcast time allotted each speech, and the Branch is grateful for the extra effort put into compiling these lists.

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2. Some reduction in the volume of FYI's reporting editor-monitor observations on Communist broadcasts has been noticed in the past month, possibly stemming from the heavy workload connected with the CPPCC and XX Communist Party Congresses. FYI's characterizing broadcast treatment of otherwise unreported events, reporting unusual broadcast format and rounding up a flood of fairly routine but unfiled comment on any subject or event are always welcomed.

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3. Propaganda Reports issued during the month examined Soviet decennial birthday greetings as symbols of rank in the Soviet Party Presidium and reported on new Chinese Communist tactics in the campaign for liberation of Taiwan. Three papers prepared at the request of DD/P components described Soviet broadcasts to Southeast Asia, Communist propaganda on Indochina and Peking's exploitation of Americans in China. A card index by subject of XX Party Congress speeches prepared

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for Branch research on the policy positions of individual Soviet leaders was reproduced and made available to OCI, OIR, USIA and the Rand Corporation, at their request. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION [redacted]

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1. It is with regret that the Division announces the death of [redacted] She will be remembered as a former member of the West Coast Bureau's administrative staff.

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2. Educational allowances have now been established for all FBIS locales. Procedures for implementing payment are at the printers.

3. Negotiations for leasing a one-family dwelling in Tokyo have commenced.

4. The following FBIS issuances have not previously been reported:

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FBIS Regulation FB 50-3

Personnel Changes (Unclassified)

1. New Employees

Assignment

Teleg. Type Opr.
Editorial Branch

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Brdcst Mon (Multi)
East Coast Bureau

Intell. Asst.
Liaison Staff

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2. Transfers to FBIS:

Assignment:

Info Sp (For Fdcst)
Editorial Branch

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Info Sp (For Bdcst)
Editorial Branch

3. Transfers Within FBIS:

From:

To:

Info Sp (For Bdst) Info Sp (For Bdcst),
East Coast Eur. Editorial Br. 50X1

Prop. Anal. Off. Intell. Off. (Gen)
Radio Prop. Br. London Bureau

4. Transfers From FBIS:

From:

Prop. Anal Off.
Radio Prop. Br.

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Teleg Type Opr.
East Coast Bureau

Separations

From:

Info Sp (For Bdcst)
Field Operations Staff

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Info Sp (For Bdcst)
Editorial Branch

Teleg Typwr
Editorial Branch

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